

South Dakota

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

News Release

March 24, 2000

BEEF, SHEEP AND LAMB PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

SIOUX FALLS, March 24, 2000 -- Commercial red meat production for South Dakota totaled 78.2 million pounds during February. This was down 5 percent from last month and down 5 percent from one year ago, according to USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. For February, beef, and sheep and lamb production were up from a year ago, while pork production was down.

Commercial hog slaughter for South Dakota totaled 317,200 head during February compared to 348,600 head last year. Average live weight was 256 pounds, which was down 8 pounds from 1999. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 315,900 head, which was comprised of 10,400 sows, and 305,500 barrows and gilts.

Commercial cattle slaughter for South Dakota totaled 24,100 head during February compared to 21,400 head last year. Average live weight was 1,428 pounds, which was up 59 pounds from 1999. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 21,800 head, which was comprised of 800 steers, 600 heifers, 16,800 cows, and 3,500 bulls.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter for South Dakota totaled 1,900 head during February compared to 300 head last year. Average live weight was 118 pounds, which was down 12 pounds from last year. Federally inspected slaughter totaled 1,800 head of lambs and yearlings.

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